



THE VETERANS' VOICE – JANUARY 2009

Crikey! One month of 2009 gone already and I'm still not used to writing 2009 on cheques etc. But with hot cross buns and Easter eggs already on sale, it seems as though they are trying to make time go faster (if that is possible).

When one is out of action and not a TV addict, one seems to read material that would not normally get a guernsey. I can relate to that as I am not fond of TV or reading fiction. Of late I have been reading poetry and got to wondering what may have been produced if our poets were keen golfers – probably very little given the time we spend on course. Imagine Samuel Taylor Coleridge's "Ancient Mariner" from Coleridge the golfer rather than the opium smoker.

We could have had "The Ancient Golfer" – we've got oodles of them – and it could have begun – ***It was an ancient golfer and he stoppeth one of three. "By your open stance and glittering eye a golfer thee must be."*** Then later we would read – ***"With my trusty five wood I shot an albatross."*** And later – ***"Water, water everywhere and the fairways all did shrink. Water, water everywhere and all my balls did sink."***

Then of course there was that verse scribbler, Billy Shakespeare, and many others but I think we have had enough on that subject. Another book I've browsed through is The Guinness Book of Records and the golf section has some items of note. The longest course in the world is The International Golf Club, Bolton, Massachusetts USA, which measures 7612 metres and par is 77. (Actually Caloundra seems longer than that on some medal days and there are scores that back up that notion!) The longest hole, 881 metres, is at The Satusuki Golf Club, Sano, Japan. (Isn't our fifth longer than that?)

Then there is the record for throwing the ball around 18 holes. This is held by Joe Flynn with a score of 82 at Port Royal Course, Bermuda – 5490 metres – on the 27th March, 1975. That name rings a bell. Might have to get Dave to watch and see if he hits or throws. Also there is mention of the fastest 18-hole round but as this is not credited to the Caloundra Vets, I didn't bother reading further. Likewise with the recorded slowest round, I gave it the miss in case we **DID** hold the title. (Only joking Lynchy!)

Meanwhile back on the course, the first fixture for the New Year was on the 16th January with a field of 144. Showing no affects from Xmas over-indulgence, Jim Fox put together 42 stableford points to take out Div. 1. Runner up was Patrick Heath (40) beating John Mallon on a countback. In Div. 2, George Dawson put it all together with 43 points to take the winner's spoils. John Wardle was runner up (40) and Bill Castle was in third place with 39. NTPs went to Len Lambert, Reg Hensall, John Wardle, Klaus Hoppe and the ubiquitous Tom Jamieson. Run down went to 33.



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Then on the 30th with a field of 143 sponsored by Harcourts of Caloundra we saw a welcome return to form by our computer man, Pierce Bragg, taking Div. 1 with 43 points. Runner up was Klaus Hoppe who beat Mat McKiernan on a countback (42). Div. 2 went to Bill Castle (40) from Alf Bishop and Robert Mullins both on 39. Run down went to 34. (Captain got a ball.) NTPs went to John Flintoff, Pat Heath, Alf Bishop and Barrie Jack. The 15th marker went AWOL.

Don't forget – play golf while you can!

Brian McNamara